

MODULE 5: Public Involvement and Stakeholder Feedback

Before addressing the questions below, it is important to briefly discuss issues related to public involvement and stakeholder feedback and an innovation. For some innovations, a high degree of public input may have been required to develop the innovations, for others, none at all. In some instances, even when a high degree of public involvement was required, those responsible for developing or implementing the innovation may have been less than successful at obtaining the desired levels. In other cases, irrespective of whether public involvement and stakeholder feedback was a requirement for the innovation development, the public may have played a significant role in shaping the innovation. Knowing this information is necessary to understand how well a particular public involvement process worked, and/or what type of outcome (environmental or other) public involvement had in shaping the innovation. However, for the purposes of understanding whether an innovation would make a good candidate for broader application, the most pertinent information involves the innovation's ability to maintain (or enhance) the base amount of involvement required under traditional programs.

I. Stakeholder Participation

1. Who are the key stakeholders?
2. Have State, Tribal, and local government partners been consulted?
3. If applicable, what specific strategies are being considered to ensure the participation of low-income and minority communities?
4. What is the pre-innovation "baseline" for public involvement and accountability against which progress will be measured?
5. How does the innovation address regulatory requirements (Federal/State/local/Tribal) for public involvement?
6. What changes to the transparency in decision-making (for the regulator and/or the regulatee) and the degree of stakeholder/public leverage result from the innovation?

II. Collaborative Dialogue Approaches

7. What are the best means of involving stakeholders in the development of the innovation?
8. What types of collaborative processes or other participatory practices will be used to solicit input?

III. Availability of Information

9. Is information regarding the innovation readily available to stakeholders?
10. What changes to the type, scope, amount, quality (accuracy, relevance), and timing of information available to the public result from the innovation?

IV. Stakeholder Feedback

11. At what stage in the innovation process will stakeholders be involved to ensure participation and an opportunity to incorporate feedback?
12. To what extent has the practitioner been successful in obtaining feedback from the public about the innovation's design and/or implementation?

V. Responsiveness to Stakeholder Priorities and Concerns

13. Has the practitioner developed a process to address the major concerns of stakeholders?
14. Is technical or financial assistance available to facilitate the participation of particular groups of stakeholders?
15. In your opinion, how do stakeholders view their involvement in the innovation?